361 The Lolo are accustomed to and like dwelling in groups. Rarely does one find a solitary farm in Liang-shan for the I tend to congregate wherever agricultural lands are fertile. Three to five families may make up a village, or it may consist of dozens of families. It differs from a Chinese village in three respects: first, the inhabitants of a Lolo village are either land-owners (Heh-I) or farmers, and there are no shops; second, the distance between the houses--sometimes as far apart as two or three li--is generally much greater than the distance [363] between the houses of a Chinese village; finally, the so-called roads in a Lolo village are merely beaten paths for there are no actual roads, to say nothing of streets paved with stone slabs.

356 Because of low civilization, the I care not at all for cleanliness. Neither the interior nor the exterior of the houses is ever swept; in fact, 296 brooms do not exist in the I region. Clothes are never washed although they do get wet on rainy days when the wearer happens to be walking outdoors or working in the fields, and thus they receive a cleaning without the slightest expenditure of energy on the part of their owner. 515 Whether men or women, the Lolo find it quite unnecessary to bathe or to wash their faces. /108/ No doubt, living amidst extreme hardships, they cannot be concerned with such matters. At the end of two weeks in the I region, we also began to lose the habit of washing our faces. It is not quite correct to say that the I do not like to bathe for they would undress and wash themselves whenever they have to wade or swim across a river deep enough for such purposes. For the women, however, these opportunities are limited, and this fact accounts for their disagreeable odor. Even when they are heavily made up, most of the Chinese cannot help retreating from them. Actually many of the Heh-I men and women are rather good-looking and have attractive features; the men are particularly strong and stalwart. If they could be well educated and taught to observe cleanliness, their bearing would not be inferior to the Chinese.

302 All the Lolo men have a square strip of hair on the front part of the head above the right forehead. It is about three or four inches in length, sometimes even long enough to be braided, known as t'ien p'u-sa /lit., heavenly buddha/, this strip of hair must be neither cut nor shaved; regarded as the most dignified part of the body, it is not to be touched heedlessly by others. A great insult it would be for someone to touch it even by mistake, and the anger aroused might be a matter of life and death. These are customs of which one should alway inform oneself before entering the region so as to avoid difficulties.